

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1583

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SUBJECT: AMB BENNETT'S CALL ON REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOREIGN
MINISTER PARK, APRIL 14, 1976

REF: (A) STATE 086853; (B9 STATE 087398; (C) STATE 088817

1. AMB BENNETT CALLED ON REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) FOREIGN MINISTER PARK ON APRIL 14 FOR A MOST FRIENDLY 45-MINUTE CONVERSATION. PARK, IN NEW YORK FOR TWO DAYS FOR MEETING OF ROK CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, RELATED WITH SATISFACTION THE EXTREMELY WARM AND USEFUL RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB (REFTELS). PARK PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE LUNCHEON THE SECRETARY HAD HOSTED IN HIS HONOR. PARK UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HE REPORTED AS THE SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. "AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE," WILL MAKE A "MONUMENTAL EFFORT" IN SUPPORT OF THE ROK AT THIS YEAR'S 31ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA).

2. PARK STATED ROK PRESIDENT PARK'S KEEN DESIRE TO AVOID DAMAGING ACTION IN THE UNGA. HE STRESSED PRESIDENT PARK'S DESIRE TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH AN UNFRIENDLY ITEM AND RESOLUTION WOULD SUCCEED AND A FRIENDLY ITEM OR RESOLUTION WOULD FAIL. PRESIDENT PARK HAD TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GET ROK OUT OF THE DEBATE IF
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TRENDS CONTINUED UNFAVORABLE. FOREIGN MINISTER PARK

UNDERLINED HIS GREAT CONCERN THAT A FRIENDLY ITEM ON KOREA MIGHT BE INSCRIBED AND A FRIENDLY RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BEFORE SUCCESS WAS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN.

3. BENNETT STRESSED THAT EARLY CORE GROUP COMMITMENT AND STRATEGY PLANNING ALREADY UNDERWAY PROVIDED GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM THIS YEAR. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ASSURANCES. BENNETT REMINDED PARK THAT ROK COULD BECOME ISOLATED THROUGH INACTION IN UNGA, BUT ADDED THAT FLEXIBLE APPROACH ADOPTED BY CORE GROUP SHOULD ENABLE OUR SIDE TO COPE WITH SITUATIONS WHICH MIGHT ARISE. BENNETT ALSO REFERRED TO CENTRIFUGAL TENDENCIES WORKING AT PRESENT AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED ON SEVERAL POLITICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING LOS, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THIS WOULD RESULT IN MANY MEMBERS BEING MORE AMENABLE THIS YEAR TO JUDGEMENT OF KOREAN ISSUE ON ITS MERITS.

1. DISCUSSION TURNED TO PAPER DRAWN UP BY CORE GROUP FOR LOBBYING THE NON-ALIGNED. PARK AND BENNETT AGREED THAT THIS SHOULD PROVE MOST HELPFUL IN ADVOCATING OUR POSITION ON DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION AT THIS FALL'S UNGA. ROK PERMREP MOON, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, THEN POINTED OUT THAT A SUCCESSFUL UNCTAD MEETING I NAIROBI COULD PROVE HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING THE NON-ALIGNED TO INCLINE MORE FAVORABLY TOWARD WESTERN VIEWS. HE MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW SUCH SUCCESS AT UNCTAD WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON "SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS" FROM US AND OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES.

5. ALL AGREED THERE WAS NO NEED FOR UNDUE PESSIMISM AT PRESENT TIME. PARK STRESSED THAT DURING NEXT TWO MONTHS CORE GROUP WOULD BE SEEKING VIEWS OF OVER 50 NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND THAT THESE VIEWS MIGHT THROW ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON SUBJECT OF KOREA AND 31ST UNGA. BENNETT REASSURED PARK THAT WHILE WE WERE LOBBYING THE NON-ALIGNED AGAINST CONFRONTATION AT 31ST UNGA, IT WOULD HARDLY BE TIMELY TO INSCRIBE A FRIENDLY ITEM. BENNETT AND PARK ALSO NOTED POSSIBILITY THAT IN DUE COURSE AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION MIGHT BE INTRODUCED BY ASEANS, NORDICS AND OTHERS.

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6. PARK SAID THAT ROK WAS PLANNING TO MAKE CLEAR ITS CONTINUED DESIRE FOR RESUMPTION OF SOUTH/NORTH TALKS. BENNETT ENCOURAGED THIS AND SAID, IN EVENT OF NORTH KORAN REFUSAL, IT COULD BE HELPFUL IN FURTHER CLARIFYING FOR MANY DELEGATIONS THE INTRANSIGENCE OF PYONGYANG ON KOREAN ISSUE.

7. PARK ADDED THAT HE HAD RAISED IN WASHINGTON POSSIBILITY

OF A JOINT US-ROK CALL FOR A CONFERENCE OF PARTIES
DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH KOREA AS HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY
SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS SEPTEMBER 22 ADDRESS TO UNGA LAST
FALL. PARK COMMENTED THAT WASHINGTON HAD INDICATED TO HIM
THAT THIS MIGHT BETTER BE DONE LATER. BENNETT TOOK NOTE OF
THESE REMARKS.

8. IN CONCLUSION, PARK SAID THAT HE HAD ASSURED AMB SNEIDER
THAT, COME WHAT MAY, ROK WILL STAND SQUARELY WITH US ON
KOREAN QUESTION. HE AND BENNETT AGREED THAT USG AND ROK WOULD
STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.
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